Next Steps for the Partnership

The 1890 land-grant universities have developed teaching, research, and extension programs that reach historically underserved students and communities. Research and extension programs address issues of special interest to minority rural communities and small-scale and limited-resource farm operators, as well as a range of more traditional topics reflecting the expertise and interests of the 1890 faculty and graduate students.

The collaboration reflected in this report explored the best ways to measure returns to investments in teaching, research, and extension programs, with the ultimate goal of improving the effectiveness of these investments. This report focused on the core questions of how 1890 institutions have been funded, what are the best indicators by which to measure program outcomes, and how to develop conceptual models for estimating future returns to investments. Further research will continue work on identifying the most reliable measures of outcomes and on assessing the adaptability of available conceptual models to the particular parameters of the 1890 programs. Research will also begin on case studies of individual 1890 programs to explore methods of assessing program outcomes using a combination of measurable, quantitative indicators and qualitative data gathered through interviews and observation.